

Xingu River ray

The **Xingu River ray**, **white-blotched river stingray**, or **polka-dot stingray** (*Potamotrygon leopoldi*) is a species of freshwater fish in the family *Potamotrygonidae*. It is endemic to the *Xingu River* basin in *Brazil* and prefers rocky bottoms.^[1] It is sometimes kept in aquaria.^[1] The Xingu river ray is a venomous stingray that contains venom localized at its dentine spine in its tail.^[2] While the ray's venom composition does not change with maturation, the venom toxicity decreases as rays get older.^[2] On the other hand, rays' jaw shape, stiffness, and mineralization are strengthened with age, which allows mature rays the ability to consume hard-shelled invertebrates.^[3] These changes in traits with maturation reflect the different pressures rays experience in terms of functions such as feeding and avoiding predation during different maturity stages.^[2]

Appearance and relatives

P. leopoldi reaches up to 40 cm (16 in) in disc width,^[4] 75 cm (30 in) in total length and 20 kg (44 lb) in weight.^[5] Females grow larger than males.^[6] It is closely related to the similar *P. henlei* from the *Tocantins River* basin and *P. albimaculata* from the *Tapajós River* basin.^[7] Compared to *P. henlei*, *P. leopoldi* is deeper black above and its underparts are mostly brownish-dusky (large white center to underparts of *P. henlei*).^{[7][8]} Compared to *P. albimaculata*, *P. leopoldi* has fewer and larger yellowish-white spots above.^{[7][8]}



Play media

Potamotrygon leopoldi

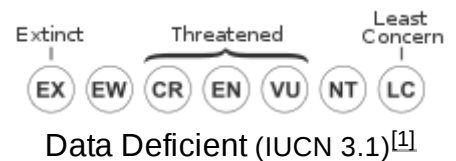
References

- ↑ Charvet-Almeida, P.; Rosa, R.S. & Pinto de Almeida, M. (2009). "*Potamotrygon leopoldi*" (<https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/39403/10226180>) . *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. **2009**: e.T39403A10226180 . doi:10.2305/IUCN.UK.2009-2.RLTS.T39403A10226180.en (<https://doi.org/10.2305%2FIUCN.UK.2009-2.RLTS.T39403A10226180.en>).
- ↑ Kirchhoff, Kim N.; Klingelhöfer, Ines; Dahse, Hans-Martin; Morlock, Gertrud; Wilke, Thomas (December 2014). "Maturity-related changes in venom toxicity of the freshwater stingray *Potamotrygon leopoldi*". *Toxicon*. **92**: 97–101. doi:10.1016/j.toxicon.2014.10.011 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.toxicon.2014.10.011>)

Xingu River ray



Conservation status



Scientific classification

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Kingdom: | <i>Animalia</i> |
| Phylum: | <i>Chordata</i> |
| Class: | <i>Chondrichthyes</i> |
| Order: | <i>Myliobatiformes</i> |
| Family: | <i>Potamotrygonidae</i> |
| Genus: | <i>Potamotrygon</i> |
| Species: | <i>P. leopoldi</i> |

Binomial name

Potamotrygon leopoldi

Castex & Castello, 1970

- [g/10.1016%2Fj.toxicon.2014.10.011](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25449099/)). PMID 25449099 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25449099/>).
3. Rutledge, Kelsi M.; Summers, Adam P.; Kolmann, Matthew A. (June 2019). "Killing them softly: Ontogeny of jaw mechanics and stiffness in mollusk-feeding freshwater stingrays" (<https://doi.org/10.1002%2Fjmor.20984>). *Journal of Morphology*. **280** (6): 796–808. doi:10.1002/jmor.20984 (<https://doi.org/10.1002%2Fjmor.20984>). ISSN 0362-2525 (<https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0362-2525>). PMID 30950541 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30950541/>).
 4. Froese, Rainer and Pauly, Daniel, eds. (2017). "*Potamotrygon leopoldi*" (<http://www.fishbase.org/summary/SpeciesSummary.php?genusname=Potamotrygon&speciesname=leopoldi>) in FishBase. February 2017 version.
 5. Fishing World-records: *Potamotrygon leopoldi*. (<http://www.fishing-worldrecords.com/scientificname/Potamotrygon%20leopoldi/show>) Retrieved 22 February 2017.
 6. "Polka-dot stingray, *Potamotrygon leopoldi*" (<http://www.dwazoo.com/animal/polka-dot-stingray/>). *Animals*. Dallas World Aquarium. Retrieved 25 January 2016.
 7. Carvalho, M.R.d. (2016): Description of two extraordinary new species of freshwater stingrays of the genus *Potamotrygon* endemic to the rio Tapajós basin, Brazil (Chondrichthyes: Potamotrygonidae), with notes on other Tapajós stingrays. (<http://www.mapress.com/j/zt/article/view/zootaxa.4167.1.1/7705>) *Zootaxa*, 4167 (1): 1–63.
 8. Ramos, H.A.C. (May 2017), *Commercial species of freshwater stingrays in Brazil*, Department of Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests, Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources and Ministry of the Environment, pp. 1–33

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Xingu_River_ray&oldid=983873697"

This page was last edited on 16 October 2020, at 19:21 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.